

Appl. No. 09/742,715
Amdt. dated January 2, 2004
Response to Final Office Action Mailed October 3, 2003

REMARKS:

This amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed October 3, 20003. Claims 6, 8, 9, 13, 14, 22 and 24 were outstanding in the Office Action. Claims 6 and 8 were rejected in view of the prior art. Claims 9, 13, 14, 22 and 24 were indicated as being allowable. The applicant wishes to extend thanks to the Examiner for his indication of allowable subject matter. New claims 25-34 have been added by this amendment and are believed to include limitations that define the invention over the prior art. Applicant respectfully requests that the above-identified application be reconsidered in view of the above amendments, and that each of the presently pending claims be allowed and the application be passed to issue.

By this amendment, claim 6 has been amended to define over the prior art of record. Claim 6 now includes the limitations that the external surface of the forward and split portion of the wear sleeve have a substantially uniform diameter. The Examiner applied the embodiment shown in figure 7 of O' Neill '005 in combination with Sollami '567 under 35 USC 103(a) in rejecting claim 6 and 8. Both the figure 7 embodiment in O'Neill, see column 6, lines 50-57, and the Sollami '567 patent, disclose wear sleeves having tapered external surfaces. Accordingly, in view of the present amendment to claim 6m, it is believed that claim 6 is now patentable over the art of record.

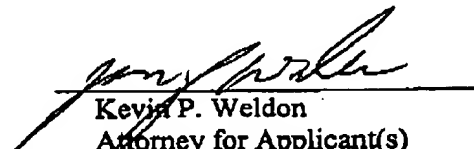
In view of the above amendments and comments, it is believed that claims are patentable over the art of record. Thus, applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance indicating claims 6, 8, 9, 13, 14, 22 and 24-34 as being allowable. If for any reason the Examiner does not believe that the application is in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone applicant with any comments or questions (724-539-3848) in order to expedite prosecution of the application.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, including additional filing fees required under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17, and any fee for extension of time, in connection with this submission to Kennametal Inc. (AMSG) corporate Deposit Account No. 502832.

Respectfully submitted,

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